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PRESS RELEASE

December 21, 2005

COUNTERFEITER SENTENCED TO 60 MONTHS IN PRISON

RE: UNITED STATES v. JAMES POUNDS

Kathleen M. Mehlretter, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced that James Pounds, age 52, of Rochester, New York, was sentenced to 60 months in prison and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$86,317.25 by United States District Court Judge David G. Larimer in connection with his guilty plea to bank fraud on July 26, 2005, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344, which charges a maximum term of imprisonment of 30 years, a \$1,00,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who handled the case, stated that on December 22, 2004, a search warrant was executed on the defendant's residence at 140 Hemple Street in Rochester. During the search, seized were more than one

thousand checks which had been stolen from the United States mails, forty-one government or business issued identification cards, one credit card and nine pieces of United States mail matter in envelopes. Many of the checks were from HSBC Bank and M&T Bank.

In addition to the above, the defendant admitted to participating with others on other occasions to cash stolen and counterfeit checks at area banks totaling more than \$86,317.25.

On December 12, 2005, the defendant's brother, Nathaniel Pounds, was sentenced to 78 months in prison for similar conduct. On November 22, 2005, Coston Harmon, another co-conspirator, was sentenced to 24 months in prison.

The conviction was the culmination of an investigation on the part of the United States Postal Inspection Service, under the direction of William E. Kezer.